

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 10, 2006, the Examiner objected to the drawings, objected to claims 1 and 15, and rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102 as either anticipated by Pederson (US Patent No. 6,798,240) or under 35 USC 103 as obvious over the combination of Pederson and Sharpe-Geisler (US Patent 5,808,942), objected to claims 3-15 as allowable if rewritten in independent form, and allowed claims 16-24. In response thereto, the Applicants have submitted new drawings, and amended claims 1, 3, 6, and 13. Claims 1, 3-24 remain at issue.

Objections to the Claims

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct the minor objection noted by the Examiner. With regard to claim 15, however, the Applicants are not clear about the objection. The language noted by the Examiner “*two.3-input*” does not appear in claim 15. The Applicants request clarification.

The Art Rejection

The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-15 to distinguish that select inputs are used to drive the plurality of LUTs. For example in Figure 2 of the present application, signals A, B, DC0, E0, F0, DC1, E1, and F1 are arranged to drive LUTs 320-326 respectively.

In the rejection, the Examiner states that the Vcc signal (signal 516b) applied to the MUX 595 in Figure 5 of Pederson is “*at least a seventh input (Vcc via 516b) of the plurality of inputs driving a control input of the third MUX.*” A careful review of Pederson reveals that the signal Vcc is a power signal that is being used as a control signal for controlling the operation of MUX 595. The Vcc signal, however, is not a select signal that is used to drive any of the LUTs of the Pederson reference.

With regard to the Sharpe-Geisler reference, the Examiner states that the supply signals VSS and VDD drive or power the LUT shown in Figure 5-1. The Applicants agree that power signals VSS and VDD are required to power the LUT of the Figure. The select signals, labeled A0, A1, A2 and A3 in the Figure, however, are responsible for selecting one memory cell among the sixteen memory cells in the figure. There is absolutely no teaching or

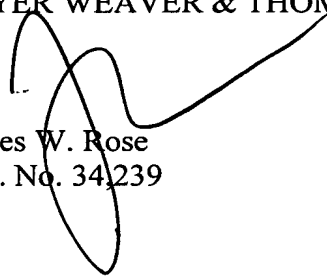
suggestion in Sharpe-Geisler for using one of the select signals A0, A1, A2 and A3 for controlling the operation of a MUX.

Since neither Pederson or Sharpe-Geisler teach or suggest the use of a select signal to control the operation of a MUX, the claims 1 and 3-15 are allowable.

As already indicated by the Examiner, claims 16-24 are also allowable.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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